

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAIROB 08256 021122Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T NAIROBI 8256

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, EFIN, EAID, CG, FR, BE, KE
SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS ON RECOVERY EFFORT FOR ZAIRE

REF: STATE 137343

1. WE BELIEVE KENYA WOULD NOT OBJECT TO ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-AFRICAN PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR DELOYMENT IN SHABA, IF THE ASSISTANCE OF SUCH A FORCE WERE REQUESTED BY THE ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT. OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS, THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT HAS FREQUENTLY VOICED ITS SUPPORT FOR THE RIGHT OF ANY AFRICAN NATION TO CALL FOR OUTSIDE SECURITY ASSISTANCE IN TIME OF NEED.

2. KENYA WOULD HAVE NO IDEOLOGICAL OBJECTIONS TO WESTERN SUPPORT FOR THE AFRICAN FORCE. KENYA COULD NOT, ON OTHER HAND, SUPPORT A FORCE WHOSE PURPOSE WAS PUBLICLY DESCRIBED (AS IN CURRENT PRESS STORIES) AS BEING TO COUNTER SOVIET/CUBAN INITIATIVES IN AFRICA. EMPHASIS WOULD HAVE TO BE ON DEFENSE OF AFRICAN COUNTRY TO WHICH ASSISTANCE PROVIDED.

3. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT THERE TO BE ANY PUBLIC REACTION BY THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE. THE KENYAN GOVERNMENT RARELY COMMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES UNRELATED TO KENYA.

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4. IT SEEMS PROBABLE THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE WOULD ULTIMATELY GIVE KENYAN LEADERS A SENSE OF INCREASED SECURITY FOR THIS COUNTRY. KENYA HAS LONG FELT ITSELF SURROUNDED BY POTENTIALLY HOSTILE NEIGHBORS, ALL OF WHOSE FORCES ARE CONSIDERABLY STRONGER THAN KENYA'S. IF AN INTER-AFRICAN FORCE BECAME A REALITY, IT COULD BE ANOTHER POTENTIAL

SOURCE OF ASSISTANCE FOR KENYA IN CASE OF AGGRESSION
FROM ONE OF THESE NEIGHBORS.
BLANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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